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# **FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM TRAINING**

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# Why Do We Have A FAP?

- ▮ **Child and spouse abuse occur in the military as well as in the civilian community.**
- ▮ **Child and spouse abuse affect not only the individuals involved but ALSO military readiness, retention, standards, reputation.**
- ▮ **Preventing & intervening in child/spouse abuse:**
  - **Right thing to do - protects victims, saves families, takes care of our own, core values**
  - **Supports readiness & retention.**

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# **SECNAVINST 1752.3A**

**Family Advocacy is a leadership issue....Child and spouse abuse are unacceptable and incompatible with these high standards of professional and personal discipline. Abusive behavior ... destroys families, detracts from military performance, negatively affects the efficient functioning and morale of military units, and diminishes the reputation and prestige of the military service in the civilian community. A continuous effort to reduce and eliminate child and spouse abuse shall be actively pursued at every level of command.**

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# **Child & Spouse Abuse Impacts**

- ▮ Victims**
- ▮ Offenders**
- ▮ Children in the Home**
- ▮ Community**
- ▮ Navy**
  - ▮ Readiness**
  - ▮ Retention**

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# Effects of Abuse

## ▮ Victims:

- ▮ Injuries, even fatalities
- ▮ Emotional harm, sometimes long term

## ▮ Abusers:

- ▮ Legal difficulties; Career ramifications
- ▮ Possible loss of marriage/family
- ▮ Emotional harm

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# Effects of Abuse (Cont)

## ▮ Relationship:

- Destroys trust & communication
- Breaks up families

## ▮ Children who are abused or witness abuse:

- Behavior problems at home & at school, Emotional trauma, Delayed development, Substance abuse

## ▮ Society:

- Loss of productivity
- Medical, legal, criminal costs

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# FAP Goals

- ▮ **Prevention**
- ▮ **Victim safety and protection**
- ▮ **Offender accountability**
- ▮ **Rehabilitative education and counseling**
- ▮ **Community accountability and responsibility for consistent, appropriate response**

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# **IDENTIFICATION OF CHILD & SPOUSE ABUSE**

## **DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS**



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# Definition of Child Abuse/Neglect

## Child Abuse:

**Direct physical injury, trauma, or emotional harm inflicted on a child, including:**

- Physical abuse**
- Emotional abuse**
- Neglect**
- Sexual abuse**

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# **Child Abuse/Neglect (Cont)**

- **Offender may be:**
  - **parent**
  - **guardian**
  - **any person providing out-of-home care, who is responsible for the child's welfare**
  - **persons both inside and outside the family**
  - **non-caregivers & juveniles - in CSA cases**
- **Includes both acts and omissions on the part of the responsible person**

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# Definition of Spouse Abuse

**Act of force, violence, or emotional maltreatment inflicted on spouse or intimate partner.**

- ▣ Assault/Battery**
- ▣ Threat to injure or kill**
- ▣ Sexual abuse**
- ▣ Property violence**
- ▣ Emotional abuse**
- ▣ Stalking**

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# **Risk Factors for Child Abuse**

- **Offender:**

- **History of prior abusive behavior**
- **History of childhood victimization**
- **Physical, emotional, or mental impairment**
- **Lack of recognition of existing problems**
- **Lack of skills and knowledge**
- **Alcohol/drug abuse**
- **Limited access/use of support/services**
- **Poor ability to cope with stress**
- **Poor attachment/bonding with child**
- **Inappropriate response to child's behavior**

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# **Risk Factors for Child Abuse (Cont)**

- **Victim:**
  - Young age
  - Physical, mental, social, developmental delay or disability
  - Inability to self-protect
  - Behavior problems
  - Fear of parent/caretaker
- **Non-Offending Caretaker**
  - History of being victimized
  - Non-protective of child
  - Not available to child

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# Causes, Patterns, Dynamics Spouse/Partner Abuse (Cont)

- Important to distinguish domestic violence from conflicted marriages
- Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behavior including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion used against the intimate partner  
(A. Ganley, Ph.D.)
  - Pattern is established by one event in which multiple tactics are used or by a series of events.
  - Use of physical force (or credible threat) toward person or property is present, but not always present in every incident

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# PREVENTION STRATEGIES

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT  
THE PROBLEM

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# Prevention

## ▮ Most Effective

- Saves lives and prevents physical & emotional damage
- Saves time and money
- Supports readiness and retention

## ● Programs May be Targeted to:

- All members/families
- At risk individuals



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# FFSC Referral Options

- ▯ **Educational/Support Programs**
  - ▯ **Stress Management**
  - ▯ **Anger Management**
  - ▯ **Effects of Domestic Violence on Children**
  - ▯ **Parenting**
  - ▯ **Children of Divorce**
  - ▯ **Men's Support Group**
  - ▯ **Women's Support Group**
- ▯ **Educational/Support programs can be used for prevention and for intervention**

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# **FFSC Referral Options (Cont)**

- ▮ **Counseling: Individual, marital, family**
- ▮ **Information and Referrals for services in the military and civilian community**
- ▮ **Referral Procedures for FFSC:**
  - ▮ **CALL YOUR LOCAL FFSC**
  - ▮ **SEE THE FFSC NEWSLETTER**
  - ▮ **USE: FFSC Website (web address)**

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# **Command Responsibilities**

- **Make continuous efforts to reduce child and spouse abuse**
- **Obtain regular and ongoing training for all command members**
- **Designate an officer or senior enlisted member as Command FAP POC to coordinate prevention and response**

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# **Command Prevention Activities**

- ▮ **Make command's position clear**
  - ▮ **Issue written policy statement**
- ▮ **Make reporting requirements known**
- ▮ **Proactively refer for services for problems (stress, anger, marriage, parenting, etc.)**
- ▮ **Post FFSC calendar**
- ▮ **Put FAP information in POD/POW notices**
- ▮ **Schedule FAP training for leadership and for all members**
- ▮ **Publicize National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE**

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# **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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# **Reporting Requirements Child Abuse**

- **Military: All DON personnel must report all suspected abuse to the FAR, who will notify Command, child protective services, and, in some cases, law enforcement (FEDERAL LAW)**
- **Civilian: (state/local requirements)**

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# **Reporting Requirements Spouse Abuse**

## **▯ Mandatory reporting**

- **Commands:** when allegations come to the attention of command
- **Law enforcement:** major physical injury or use of dangerous weapon (to FAR and Command)
- **Medical:** abuse-related injuries (to FAR and to Law Enforcement)

## **▯ Discretionary reporting**

- **FFSC & MTF** under limited circumstances, if a victim seeks counseling voluntarily

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# INTAKE

THE FIRST STEP



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# FAP Role

- ▮ **Receive reports from a variety of sources**
- ▮ **Eligibility for FAP**
  - **Victim or offender is military medical beneficiary**
  - **Current allegation of abuse/neglect or imminent risk**
- ▮ **Information & Referral (I&R) Report**
  - ▮ **Non-eligible reports or reports that meet the criteria for non-reporting**
  - ▮ **Consultation, information, and/or referrals provided**

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# Command Role

- ▮ **Report all allegations of child/spouse abuse to FAP**
  - ▮ **After Hours: Contact (title) at (phone #)**
  - ▮ **Include all available information: names; SSN; specific description of incident (who, what, when, where, how)**
- ▮ **Receive notifications from FAP**

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# **SAFETY ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE**

THE NEXT STEP

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# FAP Role

- ▮ **Conduct Safety Assessment to determine:**
  - **Degree of severity**
  - **Imminent risk of harm**
  - **Immediacy/intensity of response**
  - **Safety planning and interventions**
  - **Handling as FINS (Family in Need of Services) or open FAP case**

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# **Factors Considered in the Safety Assessment**

- **Dangerous acts committed**
- **Access to victim & immediate risk**
- **Use of weapon or object**
- **Threats of serious harm to self/others**
- **Significant abuse related harm**
- **Failure to meet basic needs**

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# **Factors Considered in the Safety Assessment (Cont)**

- **Victim vulnerability**
- **Pattern of abusive behavior**
- **Prior FAP or child protection reports**
- **Use of alcohol or drugs**
- **Fear of caretaker or spouse**
- **Non-protective non-offending parent**
- **Other factors affecting safety**

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# Safety Assessment Outcomes

- **FINS**
  - No safety assessment factors 1-6 present
  - Risk level assessed as ML or lower
  - Clinical judgment: full assessment not needed
- **Open FAP case**
  - Safety assessment factors 1-6 present
  - Risk level assessed as M or above
  - Any incidents of child abuse in DoD child care

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# **FAP Role (Cont)**

## **▮ Notifications**

- **Commands** (If case opened or reported to outside agency)
- **Child Protective Services: Child abuse/neglect**
- **NAVPERSCOM: Child sexual abuse, fatalities**
- **NCIS: Child sexual abuse cases, major injury, weapons**
- **Security: As needed for intervention**

## **▮ Safety Planning**

## **▮ Services and referrals provided as needed**

- ▮ **FFSC, Victim Advocate, Medical, Legal, Court**



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# FAP Victim Advocate

- ▮ **Provides services to spouse victims:**
  - ▮ **Crisis intervention**
  - ▮ **Safety assessment & planning**
  - ▮ **Information**
  - ▮ **Non-emergency transportation to:**
    - Shelters, medical, legal, support group
  - ▮ **Accompaniment to:**
    - investigative agencies, court appearances
  - ▮ **Advocacy**
  - ▮ **Follow-up**

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# Command Role

- ▮ **Take Safety Actions as needed:**
  - **Law enforcement contacts**
  - **Medical referrals**
  - **Issue MPO with copy to victim**
  - **Child Protection contacts**
  - **Shelter referrals**
  - **Escorts for SM**
  - **Coordinate on enforcement of civilian orders of protection**
- **FAP will provide consultation regarding safety actions**

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# Command Role (Cont)

- ▮ **Ensure appropriate investigation**
- ▮ **Document contacts & actions**
- ▮ **Notify designated person(s) in chain**
- ▮ **Notify SM of allegations - consider timing**
- ▮ **Ensure sensitive handling of information**
  - ▮ **Need to know basis within command**
  - ▮ **Do not disclose source of report or any information from victim to SM**

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# **FAP Risk Focused Assessment**

- ▮ **Conducted by FAP clinician**
- ▮ **Based on all available information: reports, interviews, assessments , investigations**
- ▮ **Assessment gives:**
  - ▮ **Assessment of risk:**
    - **Likelihood of future abuse**
    - **Likely severity if abuse recurs**
    - **Overall level of risk**
  - ▮ **Risk factors to be targeted for intervention**
  - ▮ **Intervention plan**

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# Command Role

- ▮ **Ensure SM attends FAP appointment**
- ▮ **Address SM's questions and concerns**
- ▮ **Schedule alcohol assessment and other assessments for SM, as needed**
- ▮ **Ensure investigations, as needed**
- ▮ **Forward results of investigations and assessments to FAP**
- ▮ **Take ongoing safety actions, as needed**

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# **CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

THE TEAM APPROACH

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# Case Review Committee (CRC)

- ▮ Case normally considered within 90 days of report
- ▮ Multidisciplinary: Up to 8 permanent members
  - 5 required permanent core voting members:
    - Physician
    - Line Officer (0-4 or above)
    - Family Advocacy Representative
    - Mental Health Provider
    - Judge Advocate
  - Up to 3 optional voting members
  - Chair: clinically privileged MFT staff member
- ▮ Consultants: Command Rep; others with case specific information (Victim advocate, child protection, counselor)

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# CRC Responsibilities

- ▮ **Review all available case information**
- ▮ **Make a case status determination (for open FAP cases)**
  - **Standard: Preponderance of information**
  - **Simple majority of voting members**
  - **Determination Options**
    - **Unsubstantiated - did not occur**
    - **Unsubstantiated - unresolved**
    - **Substantiated**
    - **Pending**



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# CRC Responsibilities (Cont)

- ▮ **Make recommendations**
  - ▮ **Based on risk assessment**
  - ▮ **Tailored to abuse type, severity, and risk**
  - ▮ **Voluntary in FINS and unsubstantiated cases and for victims**
  - ▮ **Recommendations cover, as appropriate**
    - **Counseling, educational & support programs**
    - **Administrative/disciplinary action**

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# Command Role

- **Attend CRC as non-voting consultant**
- **Represent the CO and command, not SM**
- **Provide information on SM and command mission relevant to CRC determination, recommendations, and monitoring**
- **Participate in the discussion but do not vote**

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# After CRC: FAP Role

- ▮ **Send letter to SM's CO (open FAP cases)**
  - Names of victim & offender
  - CRC disciplines present
  - Information considered
  - CRC determination & recommendations
  - Statement of Rights form
  - Request for command decision
- ▮ **Submits DD2486 to Central Registry**
  - No identifying info on FINS/unsub-dno cases

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# **After CRC: Command Role**

- ▮ Brief Chain on CRC outcome**
- ▮ Advise SM of CRC determination and recommendations**
  - ▮ Maintain appropriate CRC confidentiality**
  - ▮ May disclose disciplines of CRC members and types of info considered**
  - ▮ May not disclose source of report, info from victim, names of CRC members, votes/statements of specific members**

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# **After CRC: Command Role (Cont)**

- ▮ **Discuss CRC letter with SM**
- ▮ **Forward CRC outcome to civilian**
- ▮ **Provide Statement of Rights to victim, offender, or non-offending parent**
- ▮ **Advise FAP of command decision regarding CRC recommendations**
- ▮ **Hold SM accountable for abusive behavior**
  - **Mandate compliance with CRC recommendations &/or take administrative/disciplinary action**

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# Rehabilitation Services

- **Command may mandate for abusive SM**
  - Initial resistance common
- **Command & FAP encourage for SMs who are victims or non-offending parents**
- **FAP encourages for civilian victims and offenders**
- **Most benefit from services**
- **If a SM receives counseling and continues abusive behavior, may be processed as a FAP rehabilitation failure**

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# **FFSC Referral Options & Procedures**

- **Educational/Support Programs:**
  - **Stress Management**
  - **Anger Management**
  - **Effects of Domestic Violence on Children**
  - **Parenting**
  - **Children of Divorce**

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# FFSC Referral Options & Procedures (Cont)

- **Groups:**
  - **Men's Domestic Violence Group**
  - **Female Victim's Support Group**
- **Counseling:**
  - **Individual**
  - **Marital**
  - **Family**



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# **Other Military and Civilian Referral Options & Procedures**

- **TRICARE Mental Health Services**
- **Alcohol Treatment Facility**
- **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**
  
- **Women's Shelter Services**
- **YWCA Rape Crisis Program**
- **Men's Groups in the civilian community**

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# Case Closure

- ▮ **Decision made by CRC**
- ▮ **Normally occurs within 1 year of report**
  - ▮ **Case determination must be made before closure**
- ▮ **Based on updated risk assessment**
  - ▮ **Information is needed from victim, offender, command, all involved providers/agencies**
- ▮ **Considerations:**
  - ▮ **Are FAP services no longer needed or possible?**
  - ▮ **Have treatment goals been met?**
  - ▮ **What is the current risk to the victim?**

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# LEGAL ISSUES

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# **Military Protective Order (MPO)**

- ▮ OPNAVINST 1752.2A Encl. 6 contains guidelines and sample**
- ▮ Issued by SM's command**
- ▮ Intended to:**
  - Protect victim**
  - Stabilize situation**
  - Allow time for other safety measures**
  - Allow time for investigation**

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# MPO (Cont)

- ▮ **Administrative, not punitive**
- ▮ **May be granted after hearing one side**
- ▮ **Duration: normally, not more than 10 days**
- ▮ **May be renewed at CO's discretion**
- ▮ **Narrowly written:**
  - **Stay away from specific person(s), place(s)**
  - **Refrain from specific actions**
- ▮ **Copy given to victim**

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# **Accountability for Abuse**

- **Commanding Officers hold SMs accountable for abusive behavior by mandating counseling/educational programs &/or taking appropriate administrative/disciplinary action**
- **Education and counseling programs do not preclude timely and appropriate administrative or disciplinary action by the member's Commanding Officer**

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# **Factors for Administrative Processing**

- ▮ Does not meet criteria for rehabilitation**
- ▮ Repeats offense for which rehabilitation/ behavioral education/counseling was required**
- ▮ Fails to meet conditions of court orders or terms of probation**
- ▮ Fails to cease abusive behavior**
- ▮ Refuses to cooperate or complete behavior modification programs**

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# Transitional Compensation

- **Eligibility**

- ▯ **Member is separated after Court-Martial resulting (at least in part) from dependent abuse**
- ▯ **Member is administratively separated and the basis for separation includes a dependent-abuse offense**
- ▯ **“Dependent abuse” constitutes a criminal offense by federal law or jurisdiction where the abuse was committed**



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# **Transitional Compensation (Cont)**

- **Benefits provided to family members (spouse and/or children) for 12 to 36 months**
- **Benefits**
  - **\$\$**
  - **Commissary and Exchange**
  - **Medical**
- **Benefits forfeited**
  - **Remarriage**
  - **Cohabitation with offender**
- **Spouse is not entitled to both Transitional Compensation and retirement benefits**

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# COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- **Success in preventing and intervening in child/spouse abuse depends on coordinated efforts of:**
  - **Individuals**
  - **Commands**
  - **FAP**
  - **Military entities (Security, Medical, NCIS, Housing, CDC, etc.)**
  - **Civilian entities (child protective services, police, courts, counseling agencies, etc.)**

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# **Planning for a Coordinated Community Approach**

- **Participation on military & civilian multidisciplinary committees**
  - **FAC & CRC**
  - **Civilian task forces & working groups**
- **MOU with involved civilian agencies**
- **Local FAP instruction to define roles**
- **Joint trainings**
- **Joint projects**

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# The Last Word

- **Readiness begins at home**
  - Family violence is a quality of life, readiness, and retention issue
- **Family Advocacy is a leadership issue**
  - Protecting and supporting victims is the 1st priority
- **Preventing family violence takes a cooperative community effort and a clear message that such behavior is unacceptable**
- **YOU can have a lasting, positive impact for generations to come**
  - Get involved - Take action to stop abuse
- **Today's children are tomorrow's sailors**